

REMARKS

Applicant notes the indicated allowability of Claim 13.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14-31 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,891,555 to Ahlgren et al. ("Ahlgren") in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,525,863 to Kowalczyk et al. ("Kowalczyk").

Independent Claim 1 claims a method of making an arc tube chamber intermediate of tubular end portions comprising the step of, inter alia, positioning a mold having a chamber cavity wherein "the chamber cavity being asymmetrical in horizontal cross-section" so that the resultant chamber includes the asymmetrical horizontal cross-section.

The examiner agrees that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Ahlgren of forming a chamber having an asymmetrical shape. The examiner then bases the rejection on the assertion that the fact that Ahlgren fails to teach an asymmetrical shape is "immaterial since one of ordinary skill would have recognized that asymmetrical shapes could be blow molded as taught by Kowalczyk."

The examiner appears to have misinterpreted what Kowalczyk fairly discloses. There is no teaching or suggestion whatsoever in Kowalczyk of forming an arc tube chamber by blow molding. As discussed in the Amendment filed December 23, 2002, Kowalczyk is directed to forming arc tubes by pinch sealing the end portions of a tube so that the chamber between the pinched end portions remains generally cylindrical. The examiner appears to rely on the description in Kowalczyk at column 7, lines 30-39 as disclosing blow molding. To the contrary, Kowalczyk discloses conventional pinch sealing of the end portions of the tube 20 by pressing jaws 30,31 together. (see Figures 6a

and 6b and column 6, lines 57-67) The reference to a "mold" in Kowalczyk is to the portions 32,33 of the press jaws 30,31 that are used to transition the planar press sealed portion of the tube to the generally cylindrical chamber portion. The premise that Kowalczyk discloses blow molding is erroneous and forms the basis for the rejection.

Further, the examiner asserts that Kowalczyk teaches that the end portions are press sealed to have a flattened bottom section. To the contrary, Kowalczyk discloses that the end chamber 16a may include curved sides that merge with the flat bottom portion 10a. (see column 7, lines 33-37) The term "flat bottom portion" as used by Kowalczyk in this sense fairly discloses the bottom portion 10a of the generally cylindrical wall 10. As clearly illustrated in Fig. 4c, the bottom portion 10a of the wall 10 is circular and not flat.

The examiner also appears to assert that Applicant argued that Kowalczyk discloses an arc tube having "flattened" end portions. Applicant disagrees with the examiner's assertion. Applicant maintains that Kowalczyk discloses an arc tube formed by pinch sealing the end portions of a tube resulting in a generally planar portions where the opposing surfaces of the tube are pressed together to form a seal. The end portions of Kowalczyk are not "flattened" in the sense that the present invention is described or claimed as including "flattened" elements.

Moreover, the examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to flatten the center of the tube as well as the end of the tube. Clearly, it is not. As discussed in the preceding paragraph, Kowalczyk discloses flattening the ends of the tube only in the sense that the tube is pinch sealed at the ends thereby forming generally planar sealed

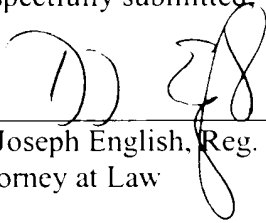
portions. It would not be obvious to flatten the center of the tube in this manner as the tube would then cease to be a tube, i.e., the chamber formed by the generally cylindrical walls of the tube would be collapsed as the opposing walls of the center portion of the tube are pinched together.

Still further, Kowalczyk expressly teaches away from flattening the walls of the chamber. Kowalczyk discloses a prior art arc tube having a flattened bottom section (see Fig. 2b). However, Kowalczyk expressly teaches that such flattening is undesirable because it creates locations where the vaporized lamp fill may condense and pool during operation of the lamp. (column 2, lines 42-49). Thus there is no suggestion or motivation from Kowalczyk to combine the references as relied upon by the examiner, and in fact Kowalczyk teaches away from the asserted combination.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited. A further and favorable Action and allowance of all claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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